



News Release

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Computer "Hacker" Charged

On February 23, 2000, Ikenna Iffih was charged in a three-count criminal information filed in U.S. District Court in Boston, MA, for violation of Title 18, United States Code (USC), Section 2511(1)(a), the illegal interception and possession of electronic communications transmitted to and through a United States Government computer; Title 18, USC, Section 1030(a)(5)(B), the illegal and intentional access and damage of a computer used in interstate and foreign commerce; and Title 18, USC, Section 1362, the willful and malicious interference of a working communications system operated and controlled by the United States Government. The three counts combined carry a maximum penalty of 10 years incarceration and a potential fine of up to \$250,000.

Iffih obtained unauthorized access to a dial-up Internet account. On April 10 – 11, 1999, Iffih used that account to compromise a Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) computer in Columbus, OH. Using the DLA computer, Iffih illegally accessed a computer owned by the Zebra Marketing Online Service (ZMOS) in Seattle, WA, and through his allegedly reckless actions, damaged that computer and caused a significant loss of revenue to ZMOS. On May 6, 1999, Iffih illegally accessed a computer located at the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in Greenbelt, MD, and used his access to install a “sniffer” program to view and capture login names and passwords transmitted on the GSFC network. Iffih then used the GSFC

computer to illegally access and modify (deface) a Department of the Interior web server on May 31, 1999.

On August 25, 1999 a search warrant was executed at Iffih's residence and the subsequent forensic examination of Iffih's personal computer revealed that Iffih had obtained unauthorized access to multiple computers owned and operated by Northeastern University (NEU), Boston, MA, and was in possession of personal identifying information on over 9,000 individuals associated with NEU.

The investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General, Office of Criminal Investigations, Computer Crime Division; the Defense Criminal Investigative Service; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General; and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Office of Investigations. Assistant United States Attorneys Allison D. Burroughs, District of Massachusetts, and Stephen C. Schroeder, Western District of Washington, are handling the prosecution of this matter.

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